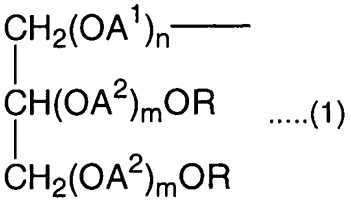
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A modified bio-related substance, wherein at least one poly(alkylene glycol)oxy group represented by the following formula (1):



.....(1)

wherein R is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, OA^1 and OA^2 are each an oxyalkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, ~~R and OA^2 are the same or different from each other in one molecule,~~ the groups represented by R are the same or different from each other in one molecule, and the groups represented by OA^2 are the same or different from each other in one molecule, n and m are each average number of moles of the oxyalkylene group added, n represents 0 to 1000, and m represents 10 to 1000,

is combined in a molecule.

2. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 1, wherein in the formula (1), R is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, OA^1 and OA^2 are each an oxyalkylene group having 2 to 3 carbon atoms, n is 0 to 500, and m is 10 to 1000.

3. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 1, wherein in the formula (1), R is a methyl group, OA^1 and OA^2 are each an oxyethylene group, n is 0 to 50, and m is 20 to 800.

4. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 1, wherein in the formula (1), n is 0.

5. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 1, wherein in the formula (1), n is 1 to 50.

6. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 1, wherein the bio-related substance has a physiological activity on a body.

7. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 1, wherein the bio-related substance is a protein or a polypeptide.

8. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 1, wherein the bio-related substance is an anticancer drug.

9. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 1, wherein the bio-related substance is an antifungal drug.

10. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 1, wherein the bio-related substance is a phospholipid.

11. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 3, wherein in the formula (1), n is 0.

12. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 3, wherein in the formula (1), n is 1 to 50.

13. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 11, wherein the bio-related substance has a physiological activity on a body.

14. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 11, wherein the bio-related substance is a protein or a polypeptide.

15. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 11, wherein the bio-related substance is an anticancer drug.

16. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 11, wherein the bio-related substance is an antifungal drug.

17. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 11, wherein the bio-related substance is a phospholipid.

18. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 12, wherein the bio-related substance has a physiological activity on a body.

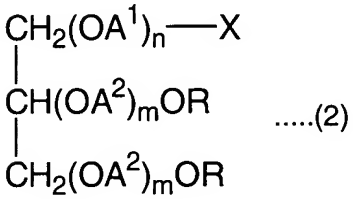
19. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 12, wherein the bio-related substance is a protein or a polypeptide.

20. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 12, wherein the bio-related substance is an anticancer drug.

21. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 12, wherein the bio-related substance is an antifungal drug.

22. (original): The modified bio-related substance according to claim 12, wherein the bio-related substance is a phospholipid.

23. (currently amended): An intermediate for a modified bio-related substance, which is represented by the following formula (2):



.....(2)

wherein R is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, OA^1 and OA^2 are each an oxyalkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, ~~R and OA^2 are the same or different from each other in one molecule,~~ the groups represented by R are the same or different from each other in one molecule, and the groups represented by OA^2 are the same or different from each other in one molecule, n and m are each average number of moles of the oxyalkylene group added, n represents 0 to 1000, m represents 10 to 1000, and X represents a functional group capable of chemically reacting with an unmodified bio-related substance.

24. (original): The intermediate according to claim 23, wherein in the formula (2), R is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, OA^1 and OA^2 are each an oxyalkylene group having 2 to 3 carbon atoms, n is 0 to 500, and m is 10 to 1000.

25. (original): The intermediate according to claim 23, wherein in the formula (2), R is a methyl group, OA^1 and OA^2 are each an oxyethylene group, n is 0 to 50, and m is 20 to 800.

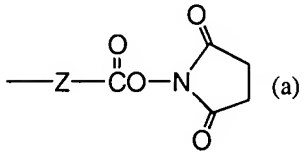
26. (original): The intermediate according to claim 23, wherein in the formula (2), n is 0.

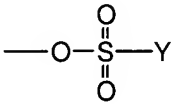
27. (original): The intermediate according to claim 23, wherein in the formula (2), n is 1 to 50.

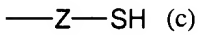
28. (original): The intermediate according to claim 23, wherein the functional group is a functional group capable of reacting with an amino group, a mercapto group, an unsaturated bond, or a carboxyl group of the unmodified bio-related substance.

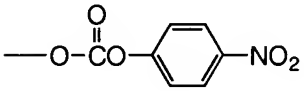
29. (original): The intermediate according to claim 23, wherein X is a group selected from the group (I):

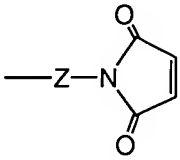
Group (I)

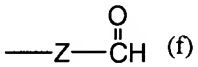

(a)

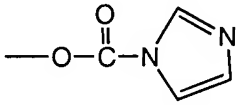

(b)

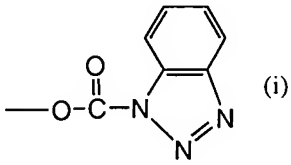

(c)


(d)


(e)


(f)

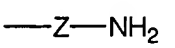

(h)

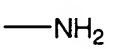

(i)

wherein Z represents a simple alkylene group or an alkylene group containing an ether bond, an ester bond, a urethane bond, an amide bond, a carbonate bond, or a secondary amino group and Y represents a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms which may contain fluorine atom(s).

30. (original): The intermediate according to claim 23, wherein X is a group selected from the group (II):

Group (II)

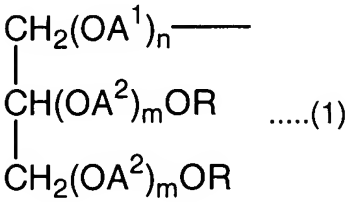

(g)


(j)


(k)

wherein Z represents a simple alkylene group or an alkylene group containing an ether bond, an ester bond, a urethane bond, an amide bond, a carbonate bond, or a secondary amino group.

31. (currently amended): A process for producing a modified bio-related substance wherein at least one poly(alkylene glycol)oxy group represented by the following formula (1):



.....(1)

wherein R is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, OA^1 and OA^2 are each an oxyalkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, ~~R and OA^2 are the same or different from each other in one molecule,~~ the groups represented by R are the same or different from each other in one molecule, and the groups represented by OA^2 are the same or different from each other in one molecule, n and m are each average number of moles of the oxyalkylene group added, n represents 0 to 1000, and m represents 10 to 1000, is combined in a molecule,

comprising a step of combining the intermediate according to claim 23 with a bio-related substance.

32. (original): The process according to claim 31, wherein the bio-related substance has a physiological activity on a body.

33. (original): The process according to claim 31, wherein the bio-related substance is a protein or a polypeptide.

34. (original): The process according to claim 31, wherein the bio-related substance is an anticancer drug.

35. (original): The process according to claim 31, wherein the bio-related substance is an antifungal drug.

36. (original): The process according to claim 31, wherein the bio-related substance is a phospholipid.

37. (original): The intermediate according to claim 29, wherein X is a group represented by (a) in the group (I).

38. (original): The intermediate according to claim 29, wherein X is a group represented by (d) in the group (I).

39. (original): The intermediate according to claim 29, wherein X is a group represented by (e) in the group (I).

40. (original): The intermediate according to claim 29, wherein X is a group represented by (f) in the group (I).

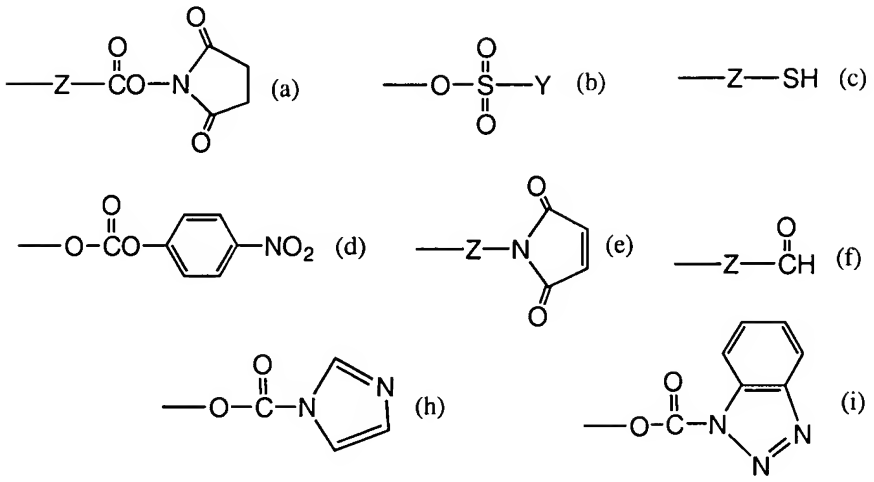
41. (original): The intermediate according to claim 25, wherein in the formula (2), n is 0.

42. (original): The intermediate according to claim 25, wherein in the formula (2), n is 1 to 50.

43. (original): The intermediate according to claim 41, wherein the functional group is a functional group capable of reacting with an amino group, a mercapto group, an unsaturated bond, or a carboxyl group of the unmodified bio-related substance.

44. (original): The intermediate according to claim 41, wherein X is a group selected from the group (I):

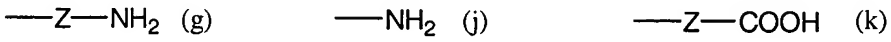
Group (I)



wherein Z represents a simple alkylene group or an alkylene group containing an ether bond, an ester bond, a urethane bond, an amide bond, a carbonate bond, or a secondary amino group and Y represents a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms which may contain fluorine atom(s).

45. (original): The intermediate according to claim 41, wherein X is a group selected from the group (II):

Group (II)

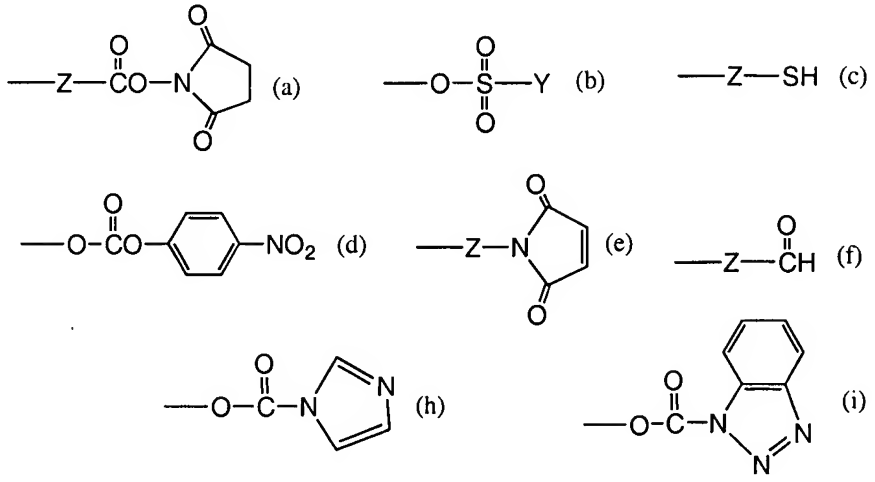


wherein Z represents a simple alkylene group or an alkylene group containing an ether bond, an ester bond, a urethane bond, an amide bond, a carbonate bond, or a secondary amino group.

46. (original): The intermediate according to claim 42, wherein the functional group is a functional group capable of reacting with an amino group, a mercapto group, an unsaturated bond, or a carboxyl group of the unmodified bio-related substance.

47. (original): The intermediate according to claim 42, wherein X is a group selected from the group (I):

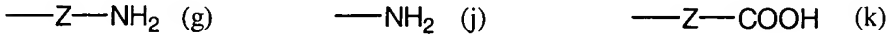
Group (I)



wherein Z represents a simple alkylene group or an alkylene group containing an ether bond, an ester bond, a urethane bond, an amide bond, a carbonate bond, or a secondary amino group and Y represents a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms which may contain fluorine atom(s).

48. (original): The intermediate according to claim 42, wherein X is a group selected from the group (II):

Group (II)

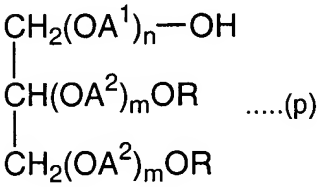


wherein Z represents a simple alkylene group or an alkylene group containing an ether bond, an ester bond, a urethane bond, an amide bond, a carbonate bond, or a secondary amino group.

49. (original): The intermediate according to claim 44, wherein X is a group represented by (e) in the group (I).

50. (original): The intermediate according to claim 47, wherein X is a group represented by (e) in the group (I).

51. (currently amended): A polyalkylene glycol derivative substantially containing no secondary hydroxyl group and being a starting material for the intermediate according to claim 23, which is represented by the following formula (p):



.....(p)

wherein R is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, OA^1 and OA^2 are each an oxyalkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, ~~R and OA^2 are the same or different from each other in one molecule,~~ the groups represented by R are the same or different from each other in one molecule, and the groups represented by OA^2 are the same or different from each other in one molecule, n and m are each average number of moles of the oxyalkylene group added, n represents 0 to 1000, and m represents 10 to 1000.

52. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative according to claim 51, wherein in the formula (p), R is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, OA^1 and OA^2 are each an oxyalkylene group having 2 to 3 carbon atoms, n represents 0 to 500, and m represents 10 to 1000.

53. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative according to claim 51, wherein in the formula (p), R is a methyl group, OA^1 and OA^2 are each an oxyethylene group, n represents 0 to 50, and m represents 20 to 800.

54. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative according to claim 51, wherein in the formula (p), n represents 0.

55. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative according to claim 51, wherein in the formula (p), n represents 1 to 50.

56. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative according to claim 51, wherein polydispersity Mw/Mn in all the peaks from the starting point of elution to the end point of elution satisfies the relationship:

$$Mw/Mn \leq 1.07$$

in gel permeation chromatography of the polyalkylene glycol derivative represented by the formula (p).

57. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative of the formula (p) according to claim 51, which is produced using a compound of the formula (4) as a starting material and satisfies the following parameter:

$$Hrd/Mp \times 1000000 \leq 3$$

Mp: a molecular weight corresponding to the peak top obtained from gel permeation chromatography of the formula (p),

Hrd: a ratio of hydroxyl group residue contained in the alkyl group R at the polyoxyalkylene chain terminal end at the 2- and 3-positions in the compound of the formula (4).

58. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative of the formula (p) according to claim 56, which is produced using a compound of the formula (4) as a starting material and satisfies the following parameter:

$Hrd/Mpx1000000 \leq 3$

Mp: a molecular weight corresponding to the peak top obtained from gel permeation chromatography of the formula (p),

Hrd: a ratio of hydroxyl group residue contained in the alkyl group R at the polyoxyalkylene chain terminal end at the 2- and 3-positions in the compound of the formula (4).

59. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative according to claim 53, wherein in the formula (p), n is 0.

60. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative according to claim 53, wherein in the formula (p), n is 1 to 50.

61. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative according to claim 54, which satisfies the following parameter:

$M2/(M1+M2)x100 \leq 10$

M1: an integral value of the methyl group originated from the mesyl group derived from the hydroxyl group at the 1-position directly bonded to the glycerin skeleton when a compound represented by the formula (p) is reacted with methanesulfonyl chloride to obtain a mesylated compound and a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum thereof is measured as a deuterated methanol solution,

M2: an integral value of the methyl group originated from the mesyl group derived from the hydroxyl group of the polyalkylene glycol chain.

62. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative according to claim 59, wherein polydispersity Mw/Mn in all the peaks from the starting point of elution to the end point of elution satisfies the relationship:

$$Mw/Mn \leq 1.07$$

in gel permeation chromatography of the polyalkylene glycol derivative represented by the formula (p).

63. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative of the formula (p) according to claim 59, which is produced using a compound of the formula (4) as a starting material and satisfies the following parameter:

$$Hrd/Mpx1000000 \leq 3$$

Mp: a molecular weight corresponding to the peak top obtained from gel permeation chromatography of the formula (p),

Hrd: a ratio of hydroxyl group residue contained in the alkyl group R at the polyoxyalkylene chain terminal end at the 2- and 3-positions in the compound of the formula (4).

64. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative of the formula (p) according to claim 62, which is produced using a compound of the formula (4) as a starting material and satisfies the following parameter:

$$Hrd/Mpx1000000 \leq 3$$

Mp: a molecular weight corresponding to the peak top obtained from gel permeation chromatography of the formula (p),

Hrd: a ratio of hydroxyl group residue contained in the alkyl group R at the polyoxyalkylene chain terminal end at the 2- and 3-positions in the compound of the formula (4).

65. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative according to claim 64, which satisfies the following parameter:

$$M2/(M1+M2)\times 100 \leq 10$$

M1: an integral value of the methyl group originated from the mesyl group derived from the hydroxyl group at the 1-position directly bonded to the glycerin skeleton when a compound represented by the formula (p) is reacted with methanesulfonyl chloride to obtain a mesylated compound and a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrum thereof is measured as a deuterated methanol solution,

M2: an integral value of the methyl group originated from the mesyl group derived from the hydroxyl group of the polyalkylene glycol chain.

66. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative according to claim 60, wherein polydispersity Mw/Mn in all the peaks from the starting point of elution to the end point of elution satisfies the relationship:

$$Mw/Mn \leq 1.07$$

in gel permeation chromatography of the polyalkylene glycol derivative represented by the formula (p).

67. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative of the formula (p) according to claim 60, which is produced using a compound of the formula (4) as a starting material and satisfies the following parameter:

$$Hrd/Mpx1000000 \leq 3$$

Mp: a molecular weight corresponding to the peak top obtained from gel permeation chromatography of the formula (p),

Hrd: a ratio of hydroxyl group residue contained in the alkyl group R at the polyoxyalkylene chain terminal end at the 2- and 3-positions in the compound of the formula (4).

68. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative of the formula (p) according to claim 66, which is produced using a compound of the formula (4) as a starting material and satisfies the following parameter:

$$Hrd/Mpx1000000 \leq 3$$

Mp: a molecular weight corresponding to the peak top obtained from gel permeation chromatography of the formula (p),

Hrd: a ratio of hydroxyl group residue contained in the alkyl group R at the polyoxyalkylene chain terminal end at the 2- and 3-positions in the compound of the formula (4).

69. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative according to claim 61, wherein polydispersity Mw/Mn in all the peaks from the starting point of elution to the end point of elution satisfies the relationship:

$$Mw/Mn \leq 1.07$$

in gel permeation chromatography of the polyalkylene glycol derivative represented by the formula (p).

70. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative of the formula (p) according to claim 61, which is produced using a compound of the formula (4) as a starting material and satisfies the following parameter:

$$Hrd/Mp \times 1000000 \leq 3$$

Mp: a molecular weight corresponding to the peak top obtained from gel permeation chromatography of the formula (p),

Hrd: a ratio of hydroxyl group residue contained in the alkyl group R at the polyoxyalkylene chain terminal end at the 2- and 3-positions in the compound of the formula (4).

71. (original): The polyalkylene glycol derivative of the formula (p) according to claim 69, which is produced using a compound of the formula (4) as a starting material and satisfies the following parameter:

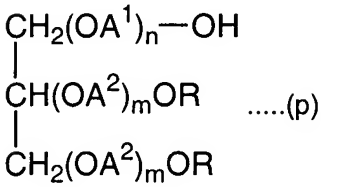
$$Hrd/Mp \times 1000000 \leq 3$$

Mp: a molecular weight corresponding to the peak top obtained from gel permeation chromatography of the formula (p),

Hrd: a ratio of hydroxyl group residue contained in the alkyl group R at the polyoxyalkylene chain terminal end at the 2- and 3-positions in the compound of the formula (4).

72. (currently amended): A process for producing the polyalkylene glycol derivative of the formula (p) comprising the following step (A):

Step (A): a step of subjecting the compound represented by the formula (4):



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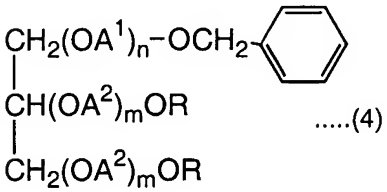


.....(4)

wherein R is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, OA^1 and OA^2 are each an oxyalkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, ~~R and OA^2 are the same or different from each other in one molecule,~~ the groups represented by R are the same or different from each other in one molecule, and the groups represented by OA^2 are the same or different from each other in one molecule, n and m are each average number of moles of the oxyalkylene group added, n represents 0 to 1000, and m represents 10 to 1000,

to a hydrogenative reduction reaction under a condition that a water content in a reaction system is 1% or less.

73. (original): The process according to claim 72, wherein in the step (A), palladium is used as a hydrogenative reduction catalyst, palladium is added in an amount of 1 to 20 wt% based on the compound of the formula (4), and the reaction is carried out at a temperature of 40°C or lower.

74. (original): The process according to claim 72, wherein as previous steps of the step (A), the following steps (B1) and (B2) are carried out:

Step (B1): a step of adding a dehalogenating agent and a compound represented by the formula (6) to a compound represented by the formula (5) and reacting them at 20 to 60°C to obtain a compound of the formula (7), provided that each charged molar ratio satisfies the following relationship:

$Vc \geq 3Va$

$Vb > Vc$

Va: number of moles of the compound represented by the formula (5)

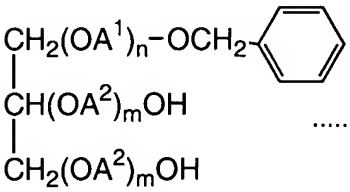
Vb: number of moles of the dehalogenating agent

Vc: number of moles of the compound represented by the formula (6);

Step (B2): a step of adding a compound represented by the formula (8) to the compound of the formula (7) and reacting them at 20 to 80°C to obtain a compound of the formula (4), provided that each charged molar ratio satisfies the following relationship:

$Vd > Vc$

Vd: number of moles of the compound represented by the formula (8);



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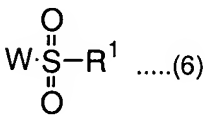

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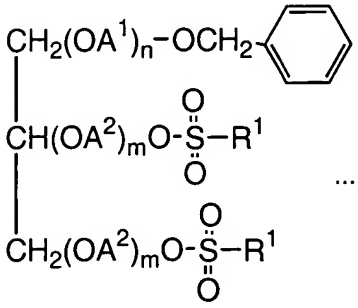
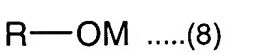


.....(7)



.....(8)

wherein R is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, OA^1 and OA^2 are each an oxyalkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, n and m are each average number of moles of the oxyalkylene group added, n represents 0 to 1000, m represents 10 to 1000, W is a halogen atom selected from Cl, Br and I, R^1 is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, and M is potassium or sodium.

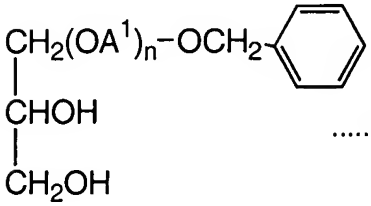
75. (original): The process according to claim 74, comprising a step (B3) as a successive step of the step (B2):

Step (B3): a step of filtrating the reaction liquid or washing the reaction liquid with an aqueous inorganic salt solution having a concentration of 10 wt% or more.

76. (original): The process according to claim 75, wherein the steps (B1) to (B3) are repeated after the step (B3).

77. (original): The process according to claim 75, wherein as previous steps of the steps (B1) to (B3), the following steps (C1) and (C2) are carried out:

Step (C1): a step of adding sodium or potassium in an amount of 5 to 50 mol% based on a compound represented by the formula (9):



.....(9)

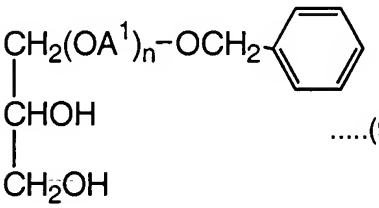
wherein OA^1 is an oxyalkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms,

and dissolving the former at 10 to 50°C;

Step (C2): a step of reacting an alkylene oxide at 50 to 130°C.

78. (original): The process according to claim 76, wherein as previous steps of the steps (B1) to (B3), the following steps (C1) and (C2) are carried out:

Step (C1): a step of adding sodium or potassium in an amount of 5 to 50 mol% based on the compound represented by the formula (9):



.....(9)

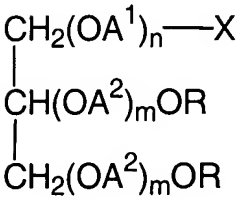
wherein OA^1 is an oxyalkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms,

and dissolving the former at 10 to 50°C;

Step (C2): a step of reacting an alkylene oxide at 50 to 130°C.

79. (original): A modified bio-related substance, which is obtained by the process according to claim 31.

80. (currently amended): A process for producing an intermediate for a modified bio-related substance, represented by the formula (2), wherein the polyalkylene glycol derivative according to claim 51 is used as a starting material:



.....(2)

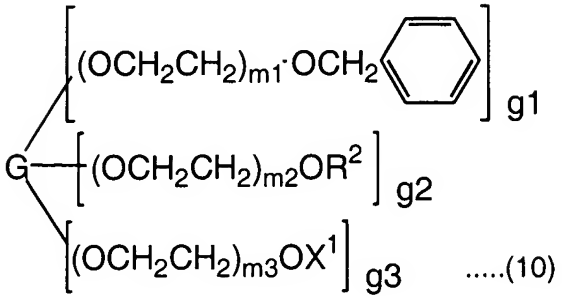
wherein R is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, OA^1 and OA^2 are each an oxyalkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, ~~R and OA^2 are the same or different from each other in one molecule,~~ the groups represented by R are the same or different from each other in one molecule, and the groups represented by OA^2 are the same or different from each other in one molecule, n and m are each average number of moles of the oxyalkylene group added, n represents 0 to 1000, m represents 10 to 1000, and X represents a functional group capable of chemically reacting with an unmodified bio-related substance.

81. (original): An intermediate for a modified bio-related substance, which is obtained by the process according to claim 80.

82. (original): A polyalkylene glycol derivative of the formula (p), which is obtained by the process according to claim 72.

83. (original): A process for producing a polyalkylene glycol derivative of the formula (11), comprising the following step (AA):

Step (AA): a step of subjecting a compound represented by the formula (10) to a hydrogenative reduction reaction under a condition that a water content in a reaction system is 1% or less:



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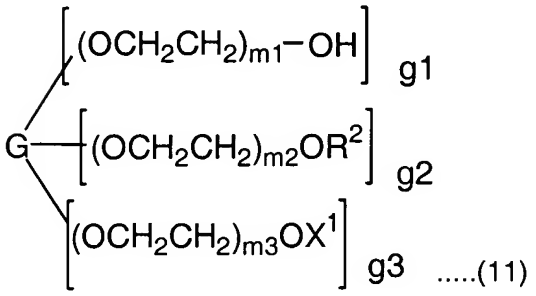


.....(11)

wherein G is a residual group of a compound having 2 to 4 hydroxyl groups; R^2 is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; m1, m2, and m3 represent each average number of moles of an oxyethylene group added and satisfy the following relationship:

$0 \leq m1 \leq 1000$, $0 \leq m2 \leq 1000$, $0 \leq m3 \leq 1000$, $10 \leq m1+m2+m3 \leq 1000$;

X^1 is an amino group, a carboxyl group, or a protected group thereof; and g1, g2, and g3 represent each an integer and satisfy the following relational equations:

$1 \leq g1 \leq 3$, $0 \leq g2$, $0 \leq g3$, $2 \leq g1+g2+g3 \leq 4$.

84. (original): A process for producing a polyalkylene glycol derivative of the formula (11) according to claim 83, wherein in the step (AA), palladium is used as a hydrogenative reduction catalyst, palladium is added in an amount of 1 to 20 wt% based on the compound of the formula (10), and the reaction is carried out at a temperature of 40°C or lower.

85. (original): A process for producing a polyalkylene glycol derivative of the formula (16), wherein the following steps (BB1) and (BB2) are carried out:

Step (BB1): a step of adding a dehalogenating agent and a compound represented by the formula (14) to a compound represented by the formula (12) and reacting them at 20 to 60°C to obtain a compound of the formula (13), provided that each charged molar ratio satisfies the following relationship:

$Vj \geq 1.5 \times Vh \times g5$

$Vi > Vj$

Vh: number of moles of the compound represented by the formula (12)

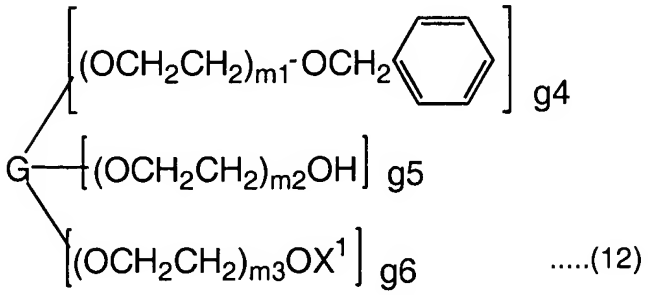
Vi: number of moles of the dehalogenating agent

Vj: number of moles of the compound represented by the formula (14);

Step (BB2): a step of adding a compound represented by the formula (15) to the compound of the formula (13) and reacting them at 20 to 80°C to obtain a compound of the formula (16), provided that each charged molar ratio satisfies the following relationship:

$Vk > Vj$

Vk: number of moles of the compound represented by the formula (15):



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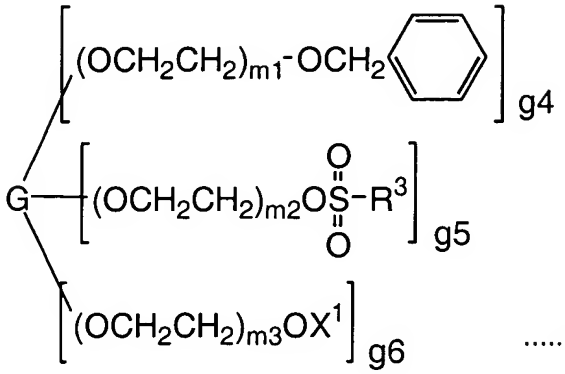
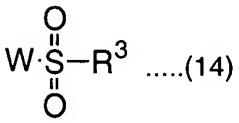
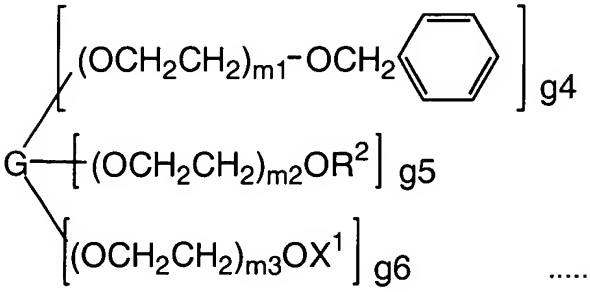


.....(13)



.....(14)

.....(15)



.....(16)

wherein G is a residual group of a compound having 2 to 4 hydroxyl groups; R^2 is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; m1, m2, and m3 represent each average number of moles of an oxyethylene group added and satisfy the following relationship:

$0 \leq m1 \leq 1000$, $0 \leq m2 \leq 1000$, $0 \leq m3 \leq 1000$, $10 \leq m1+m2+m3 \leq 1000$;

X^1 is an amino group, a carboxyl group, or a protected group thereof; g4, g5, and g6 represent each an integer and satisfy the following relational equations:

$0 \leq g4$, $1 \leq g5 \leq 3$, $0 \leq g6$, $2 \leq g4+g5+g6 \leq 4$;

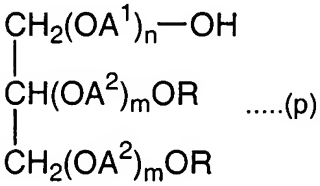
W is a halogen atom selected from Cl, Br and I; R^3 is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms; and M is potassium or sodium.

86. (original): The process for producing a polyalkylene glycol derivative of the formula (16) according to claim 85, comprising a step (BB3) as a successive step of the step (BB2):

Step (BB3): a step of filtrating the reaction liquid or washing the reaction liquid with an aqueous inorganic salt solution having a concentration of 10 wt% or more.

87. (original): The process for producing a polyalkylene glycol derivative of the formula (16) according to claim 86, wherein the steps (BB1) to (BB3) are repeated after the step (B3).

88. (currently amended): A composition, which contains a polyalkylene glycol represented by the following formula (p) and substantially does not contain polyalkylene glycol derivative having a secondary hydroxyl group:



.....(p)

wherein R is a hydrocarbon group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, OA^1 and OA^2 are each an oxyalkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, ~~R and OA^2 are the same or different from each other in one molecule,~~ the groups represented by R are the same or different from each other in one molecule, and the groups represented by OA^2 are the same or different from each other in

one molecule, n and m are each average number of moles of the oxyalkylene group added, n represents 0 to 1000, and m represents 10 to 1000.